

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 457****2026 Regular Session****Knox**

HOMELESS: Establishes minimum housing standards for individuals experiencing homelessness

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Adds definitions of "homelessness" and "homeless facility".
2. Provides that the La. Dept. of Health shall promulgate minimum housing standards for unlicensed group homes and other facilities that receive state or local government funds.
3. Provides that the rules promulgated by the La. Dept. of Health shall be used by local and parish governing authorities for permitting and approval purposes.
4. Provides that the La. Dept. of Health shall examine the feasibility of submitting waivers to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to obtain funding to provide healthcare and housing services to individuals who are experiencing homelessness.
5. Provides that a "homeless facility" does not mean a private residence, a place of worship, a charitable substance abuse recovery program, temporary housing for individuals experiencing a natural disaster or other gubernatorial declared emergency, or certain work-release or reentry programs.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law authorizes the La. Department of Health (LDH), in consultation with the state fire marshal, to establish minimum housing standards for emergency shelters, community facilities, unlicensed group homes, and halfway houses that receive state or local funds for use by local and parish governing authorities for permitting or approval purposes.

Proposed law requires that minimum housing standards address safety, sanitation, privacy, and habitability.

Proposed law provides that no administrative rule created shall conflict with requirements on facilities imposed by federal law.

Proposed law authorizes the state fire marshal to assist in implementing proposed law by conducting annual inspections of applicable housing facilities to ensure they are safe and sanitary for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Proposed law requires LDH to examine the feasibility of submitting federal waivers to obtain funding for healthcare and housing services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Proposed law creates an exception for private residences, churches, a charitable substance abuse recovery program, temporary housing for individuals experiencing a natural disaster, and certain work release or reentry programs.

(Adds R.S. 40:581)